

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:
providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;
providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy; and
transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels[.];
wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the method further comprises:
_____ placing said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and
_____ placing said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[4]]1, further comprising:
arranging said first plurality of sections into a first set of bursts and
arranging said second plurality of sections into a second set of bursts.
6. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[4]]1 further comprising:
placing said first plurality of sections in a first plurality of packets and
placing said first plurality of sections in a second plurality of packets.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:
labelling said first plurality of packets with a first packet identifier; and
labelling said second plurality of packets with a second packet identifier.
8. (original) The method according to claim 5, comprising:
providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first, earlier burst comprising at least some of said copy of said at least some of said service information data and a second, later burst comprising further of said copy of said at least some of said service information data; and
providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data.
9. (original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
placing said first parameter in a section included in said first burst and
placing said second parameter in a section included in said second burst.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said communications network is a unidirectional, digital broadcast system.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted, the method comprising:

providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some of said service information data; and

transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data[.];

transmitting said service information data via a first set of channels; and

transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels;

wherein said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the method further comprises:

placing said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and

placing said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing a data processing apparatus to transmit service information data via a first set of channels;
to provide a copy of at least some of said service information data;
to provide forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy; and
to transmit said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels[.];
wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets, and further comprises:

to place said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and
to place said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

24. (currently amended) A method of operating a terminal configured to receive service information transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:

receiving a copy of at least some of said service information data and FEC data for said copy via a second, different set of channels[.];

decoding said copy of at least some of said service information data and said FEC data for said copy so as to so produce a corrected version of said copy of said at least some of said service information data;

wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and
receiving said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing a terminal

to receive a copy of at least some of said service information data and FEC data for said copy via a second, different set of channels; and

to decode said copy of at least some of said service information data and said FEC data for said copy so as to so produce a corrected version of said copy of said at least some of said service information data[.];

wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets, and further comprises:

to receive said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and

to receive said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A network element configured to signal service information via a first, set of channels, the network element comprising:

means for providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;

means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy;

means for transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels[.];

wherein the network element is an encapsulator.

36. (currently amended) A network element for signalling service information, the network element comprising:

means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some of said service information data; and

means for transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data[.];

wherein the means for transmitting is configured to transmit service information data via a first set of channels and to transmit said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels; and

wherein said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the network element further comprises:

means for placing said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and

means for placing said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A transmitter for signalling service information in a communications network, the transmitter comprising:

means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for at least some service information data; and

means for transmitting said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data[.];

wherein the means for transmitting is configured to transmit service information data via a first set of channels and to transmit said at least some of said service information data and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels;

wherein said copy of said at least some of said service information data comprises a first plurality of data packets and said FEC data comprises a second plurality of data packets and wherein the method further comprises:

placing said first plurality of data packets in a first plurality of sections and

placing said second plurality of data packets in a second plurality of sections.

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A method of signalling in a communications network in which service information data is transmitted via a first set of channels, the method comprising:

_____ providing a copy of at least some of said service information data;

_____ providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said copy; and

_____ transmitting said copy and said FEC data via a second, different set of channels; and
further:

including in said service information data at least one of the following parameters:

a parameter for indicating that said copy is being transmitted via second channel;

a parameter for indicating that said FEC data is being transmitted via third channel;

a parameter for indicating that said copy is being transmitted in a set of time-sliced bursts;

and

a parameter for indicating that said FEC data is being transmitted in a set of time-sliced bursts.